

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02
AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /147 W
-----007960 132159Z /62

R 131452Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2767
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BOTOGA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0170

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, PCAT, SW
SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT IN SSOD

REF: (A) 77 STATE 305298, (B) 77 STOCKHOLM 3997 (NOTAL),
(C) 77 STOCKHOLM 4611 (NOTAL, (D) 77 STOCKHOLM 4624 (NOTAL)

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1. SUMMARY: GOS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR
EFFORTS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON ISSUE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS
TRANSFERS (CAT) AT THE FORTHCOMING PREPCOM ROUND OF SSOD.
SWEDEN WILL BE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED TO OBTAIN SSOD ENDORSEMENT
OF THE NORDIC PROPOSAL FOR LONG-TERM UN STUDY OF
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.
THRUST OF SWEDISH CONCERN, HOWEVER, WILL BE DIRECTED

TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ISSUES. FACTORING IN TRADITIONAL SWEDISH THIRD-WORLD SENSITIVITIES AS WELL, GOS LIKELY TO ASSUME RELATIVELY LOW PROFILE IN CAT DEBATES. END SUMMARY

2. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FOURTH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SESSION WITH MFA'S LARS-GORAN ENGFELDT. ENGFELDT, WHO WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR THE SESSION, IS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS MUST BE DISCUSSED AT THE SESSION AND ATTACKED HEAD-ON IN THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. GOS WILL BE WITH US IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED FINAL DOCUMENT.

3. OTHER THAN PURSUING SSOD APPROVAL OF NORDIC PROPOSAL FOR UN STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, SWEDES HAVE NO PLANS AT THIS STAGE FOR ANY FAR-REACHING INITIATIVES OF THEIR OWN IN CAT CONTEXT. PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF SWEDISH INTEREST IN SSOD HERETOFORE HAS BEEN--AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE--ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, WHICH IN SWEDISH VIEW MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY.

4. SWEDES, WITH OTHER NORDICS, TOOD INITIATIVE AT 32ND UNGA TO PUSH FOR LONG-RANGE UN STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (REF D). MFA NOW EXPECTS SSOD TO GIVE FINAL APPROVAL TO THIS PROJECT, AFTER WHICH SECGEN MUST APPOINT STUDY GROUP MEMBERS. SWEDES WILL PRESS FOR STUDY GROUP COMPOSITION WEIGHED HEAVILY IN FAVOR

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OF POLITICAL, RATHER THAN TECHNICAL, EXPERTS WHO WILL GIVE ALL DUE CONSIDERATION TO CAT-RELATED ISSUES. SWEDES SEE OBVIOUS LINK BETWEEN OUR CAT CONCERNS AND THE NORDIC DISARMAMENT-DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

5. SWEDES ARE HIGHLY CONSCIOUS OF ENORMOUS HOSTILITY AND SUSPICIONS IN MANY THIRD WORLD QUARTERS RE CAT RESTRICTIONS. SWEDISH DELEGATION LIKELY AT ALL TIMES TO KEEP AN EYE OVER ONE SHOULDER IN EFFORT NOT TO PULL TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF THIRD WORLD FRIENDS. SWEDES HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS THAT WE WILL HAVE EASY TIME OVERCOMING CREDIBILITY PROBLEM IN CONVINCING THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAT THEIR INTERESTS ARE WELL SERVED BY CAT RESTRICTIONS. MOST WE CAN REALISTICALLY HOPE TO ACHIEVE, SWEDES BELIEVE, IS FORMATION OF UN STUDY TO KEEP THE MATTER UNDER DISCUSSION.

6. SWEDES, AS SOMETIMES PURCHASERS OF US ARMS AND TECHNOLOGY THEMSELVES, ARE ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO FACTOR OF REGIONAL VARIATIONS. HOVERING OVER SWEDISH CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE IS CONVICTION THAT RESTRICTIONS APPROPRIATE TO POOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE AREAS ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO A WEALTHY EUROPEAN NEUTRAL.

7. SWEDISH THINKING ON HOW BEST TO APPROACH CAT ISSUE IN SSOD CONTEXT HAS NOT YET FULLY CRYSTALIZED. DISARMAMENT EXPERTS WILL BE MEETING NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER OVERALL POLICY TOWARD FOURTH PREPCOM. IN THAT RESPECT, DEPARTMENT'S TALKING POINTS PROVIDED TIMELY AND VALUABLE EMBASSY INPUT OF US CONCERNS. MFA IS HOPEFUL THAT US WILL PLAY ACTIVE ROLE AT SSOD AND IS EAGER TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE BOTH IN STOCKHOLM AND IN NY ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE SESSION. SWEDISH DELEGATE IN NY WILL STAND READY TO GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ANY CONCRETE CAT PROPOSALS WHICH MAY BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

KENNEDY-MINOTT
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